(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that they have left off the consultations and also excluded from the proposed disinvestment Commission;

(d) if so, reasons therefor; and

(e) what is going to be the Commissions composition?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In the disinvestments of PSU shares undertaken so far by the Government, no specific group of people or institution like the Trade Unions has been given any active role. The disinvestments were carried out by the Government in consultations with professional merchant bankers.

(c) to (e) Announcement about constitution of a disinvestment Commission has already been made, with a full time Chairman and four part time Members, to advise the Government on disinvestment of equity shareholding in the PSUs. Consultation with the concerned groups including workers and any other person having stake in the well being of PSUs is not excluded form the purview of the Disinvestment Commission.

Method Study of Training and Employment Directorate

2113. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 1371 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th August, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the reports on Method Study of Training Directorate and the Employment Directorate have been finalised;

(b) if so, the main features of the recommendations; and

(c) if not, by what time those reports will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Staff Inspection Union (SIU) had submitted tentative reports on Work Measurement and Method Study of the Training and Employment Directorates. As the tentative reports involve a lot of structural changes and reduction in staff strength of the training Directorate, the recommendations have not been accepted. It has been decided to have further studies in consultation with the relevant branches and departments and hence it would be difficult at this stage to indicate a time frame for finalisation of the reports.

Export of Fish

2114. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by Government to increase the export of fish;

(b) if so, the fish export performance during 8th plan (year-wise);

(c) the steps taken to tap the foreign market to increase the export of fish; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export performance of marine products during the 8th Plan has been as under:—

Year	Qty. exported (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1992-93	209025	1768.56
1993-94	243960	2503.62
1994-95	307337	3575.27
1995-96	296277	3501.11
1996-97 (Apr-July)	66475.68	847.03

(c) and (d) The following are the important steps taken by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MEPDA) for tapping the foreign markets and increasing India's share:—

(i) Participating in Trade Fairs abroad for creating a greater awarenes about Indian products.

(ii) Organising Buyer-Seller Meets coinciding with a few major international seafood fairs.

(iii) Sending trade delegations abroad.

(iv) Inviting overseas experts to India.

(v) The Trade Promotion Officers of MPEDA at Tokyo and New York are engaged in market promotion activities in the respective countries for promotion of exports of marine products from India.

Increase of Issue Price of Sugar under PDS

2115. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering to raise issue price of sugar under the Public Distributing System;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to raise the price of sugar to Rs. 11 per Kg.;

(c) if so, what are the other items on which the control prices are being increased; and

(d) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and what are the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to increase the price of sugar under the PDS though the Government is considering its implications in relation to the Food subsidy.

Decrease in the Prices of Imported Coal

2116. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of imported coal were suddenly brought down on the 22nd of March, 1996 three days after the Model Code of Conduct was made applicable;

(b) if so, the reasons as well as the effect thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to this Cement Industry is importing coal on a very large scale; and

(d) what steps are being taken to see that our own indigenous coal is sold in more quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Prices of imported coal are not fixed either by the Government or the Public Sector Coal companies.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to para (a).

(c) Imports of coal are under OGL and as such imports are made by the consumers themselves their own commerical judgement.

(d) Coal produced in the country is completely sold except for marginal quantities of coal produced in certain pockets where there are constrains in reaching the markets on account of transportation bottlenecks.